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Moa

The **moa**[3][4] wur nine species (in sax genera) o flichtless birds endemic tae New Zealand.[5] The twa lairgest species, *Dinornis robustus* an *Dinornis novaezelandiae*, reached aboot 3.6 m (12 ft) in hicht wi neck outstretched, an weighed aboot 230 kg (510 lb).[6]

Moa belang tae the ratite group in the order **Dinornithiformes**.[5] The nine[5] species o moa wur the anly wingless birds, lackin even the vestigial wings which aw ither ratites hae. Thay wur the dominant herbivores in New Zealand's forest, shrubland an subalpine ecosystems for thoosands o years, an till the arrival o the Māori wur hunted anly bi the Haast's Eagle. It is generally considered that maist, if nae aw, species o moa died oot bi A.D. 1400 due tae owerhuntin bi the Māori an habitat decline.

Moa

Airtist's rendeetion o a Haast's Eagle attackin moa

Scientific classification

Kinrick:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Cless:	Aves
Superorder:	Palaeognathae Bonaparte, 1853[1]
Order:	†**Dinornithiformes** Bonaparte, 1853

Teep species

†*Dinornis novaezealandiae* Owen, 1843

Subgroups

See text

Diversity[2]

6 genera, 9 species

Synonyms

- ***Dinornithes***

References

1. Brands, S. (2008)
2. Stephenson, Brent (2009)
3. In Māori wirds dae nae uise *s* tae indicate plural, an thus "moa" is baith plural an singular. Some Inglis speakers apply this rule tae thair uise o the word within Inglis, altho ithers uise the regularly furmed Inglis plural "moas".
4. In some ither Polynesian leids (Tahitian, Cook Islands Maori, Samoan...), "moa" is the generic name for chicken, fowl (Dictionary of the Tahitian Academy {fr/ty} (http://www.farevanaa.pf/dictionnaire.php); Jasper Buse, Raututi Taringa, "Cook islands Maori Dictionary" (1995); Samoan lexicon (http://www.samoalive.com/M.htm))
5. OSNZ (2009)
6. Davies, S. J. J. F. (2003)

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This page wis last eeditit on 15 October 2017, at 06:01.

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